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TIME-DEPENDENT FRACTURE PROCESSES RELATING TO SERVICE LIFE PRED--ETC(U)  
OCT 77 K M LIECHTI, W G KNAUSS F49620-77-C-0051

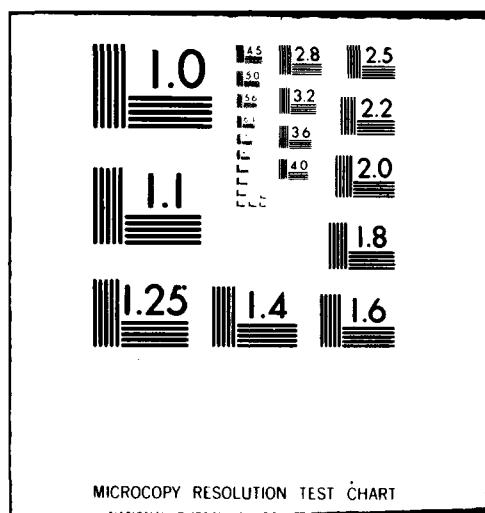
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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		
1. REPORT NUMBER <b>AFOSR/TR-80-1016</b>	2. GVT CONTRACT NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) TIME-DEPENDENT FRACTURE PROCESSES RELATING TO SERVICE LIFE PREDICTION OF ADHESIVE JOINTS AND ADVANCED COMPOSITES		
5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Progress rept. No. 23 Jul - Oct 77		
6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER F49620-77-C-0051		
7. AUTHOR(s) K. M. LIECTHI W. G. KNAUSS		
8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(S) 15		
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE AERONAUTICAL LABORATORIES ✓ PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125		
10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS 16 2307 B1 61102F 17 PL		
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH/NA BUILDING 410 BOLLING AFB, DC 20332		
12. REPORT DATE 11 7 October 1977		
13. NUMBER OF PAGES 8		
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(if different from Controlling Office) 12 14		
15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) UNCLASSIFIED		
15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE		
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) OCT 15 1980 D		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) LOADING DEVICE FRAME TUBES AND SPECIMEN HOLDERS HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Completion of construction of the loading device frame, tubes and specimen holders; development of suitable heating and cooling systems for the tubes; development of a method to measure the (small) displacements applied to the specimen by the loading device; determination of the amount of light needed in the crack opening recording method. ↑		

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**AFOSR-TR- 80 - 1016**

Progress Report No. 2 on  
TIME-DEPENDENT FRACTURE PROCESSES  
RELATING TO SERVICE LIFE PREDICTION  
OF ADHESIVE JOINTS AND ADVANCED COMPOSITES

*F49620-77-C-0051*

by

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October 7, 1977

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## ABSTRACT

The work done since the last report has consisted of:

- a) Completion of construction of the loading device frame, tubes and specimen holders.
- b) Development of suitable heating and cooling systems for the tubes.
- c) Development of a method to measure the (small) displacements applied to the specimen by the loading device.
- d) Determination of the amount of light needed in the crack opening recording method.

This report describes the details of items (b), (c) and (d).

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### Heating and Cooling Systems

Following construction of the loading frame, tests were made to determine the most suitable methods for heating and cooling the tubes.

It was found that the current needed for the resistance heating method proposed was too high to be practical. We therefore decided to use mica band heaters clamped to the outside of the tubes and provide the heating via conduction. It is planned to use three 500 watt band heaters on each tube to give a heated length of five inches. The heaters have been on order for four months and delivery is anticipated within a week.

Using water to cool the tubes resulted in too slow a contraction rate. Cooling is now provided by spraying liquid nitrogen on the inside of the tubes over a five inch length as shown in fig. 1. This provides a contraction of .001" in 60 seconds, corresponding to a 3% strain across a 0.030" thick bond. According to calculations, the heaters should provide an equal expansion rate.

#### Measurement of Displacements Applied to Specimen

The measurement was first attempted using an L. V. D. T. and also a photonic sensor. In both cases, the problem of drift occurred. In view of the long-time nature of the experiments, it is desirable that the drift be minimized. To this end, an optical interference scheme employing a Mach-Zehnder interferometer has been developed. (See fig. 2)

The interference pattern produced is a series of light and dark fringes in concentric circles. As the mirrors (fig. 2) are moved closer together a given fringe moves towards the center, where it then disappears. The opposite occurs for the mirrors moving apart. Two photodiodes are placed in the image plane of the pattern, one at the center of the pattern and the second slightly off-center. The amplified signal of the central diode drives a counter and the phase difference between the two amplified diode signals is used to determine the direction of motion of the mirrors. Fig. 3 shows the output of the diodes as recorded by a chart recorder.

The mirrors are attached to the specimen in the form of two interferometers, one measuring normal displacements and the other tangential displacements. Each count on the counter corresponds to a movement of  $\lambda/2$  of the mirrors, where  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the He Ne laser light used. This corresponds to a resolution of  $1.25 \times 10^{-5}$  inches. If maxima and minima are counted instead of zero crossings (as the counter does) a resolution of  $6.25 \times 10^{-6}$  inches can be obtained.

The output will be recorded for data reduction and also used as a feedback to control the heating and cooling systems.

We had planned to build a circuit to supply the logic in the control loop. However, recent discussions with J. P. L. personnel who specialize in the microprocessor field gave us the idea that off-the-shelf, pretested modules added to a basic microprocessor would do the job with greater certainty. This would save time as compared to designing, constructing and testing our own logic circuitry. The microprocessor could then also be used for data acquisition and on-line reduction purposes, greatly decreasing the time spent reducing the data which would otherwise have to be chart recorded. The rates of data acquisition are slow enough that this can be done without difficulty with such a system.

A capacitance probe with micro-inch resolution and extremely low drift has also been investigated as an alternative to the Mach Zehnder device. Price considerations (\$4K) may, however, eliminate it as a choice.

Crack Opening Recording Method

The exposure time needed for photographic recording of the unbond interference pattern with the short developmental specimens described in the first progress report was one second. The specimens proposed for the study will be of the order of ten times longer. This will increase the exposure time. Further losses in illumination will be incurred due to the need for additional beam steering devices in the present set-up. It is estimated that, using the present 15 milliwatt laser light source, exposure times of the order of five seconds will now be required. This will not be fast enough to capture photographically some fracture events. A more powerful laser is needed.

The more powerful laser would also allow simultaneous recording of the interference pattern by a photodiode array which, coupled to a microprocessor unit, would greatly facilitate data reduction.

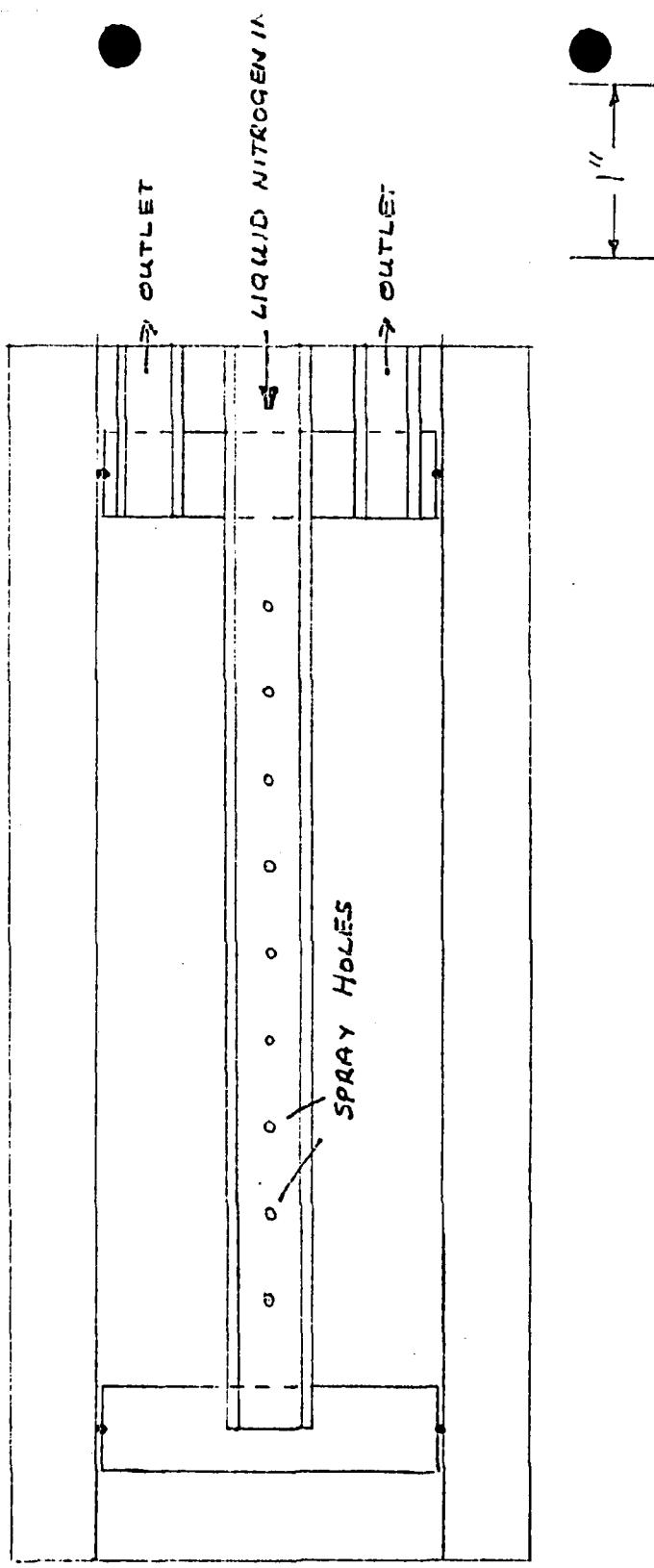


Fig 1 Cross section of a portion of a tube showing the  
cooling arrangement

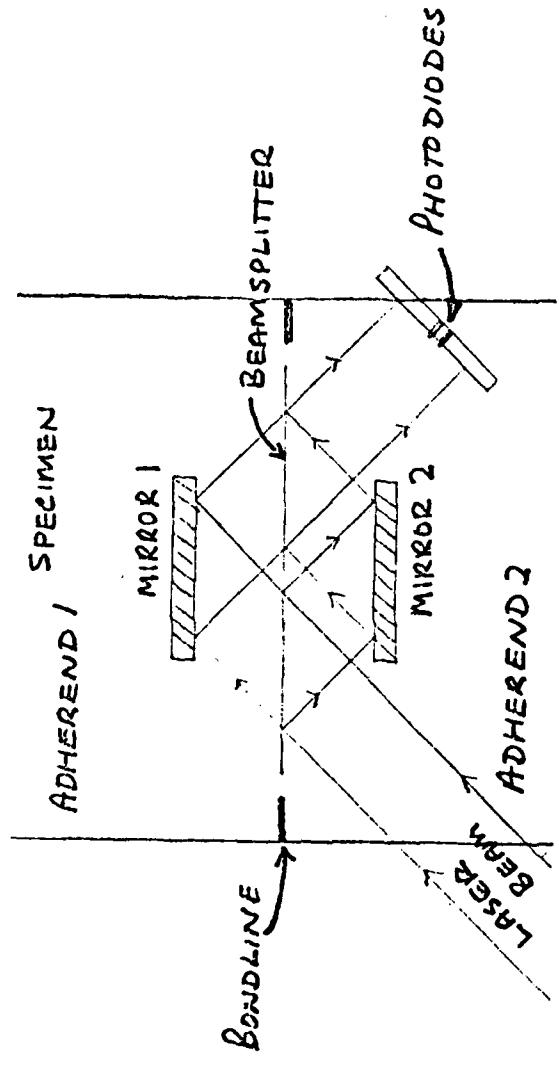
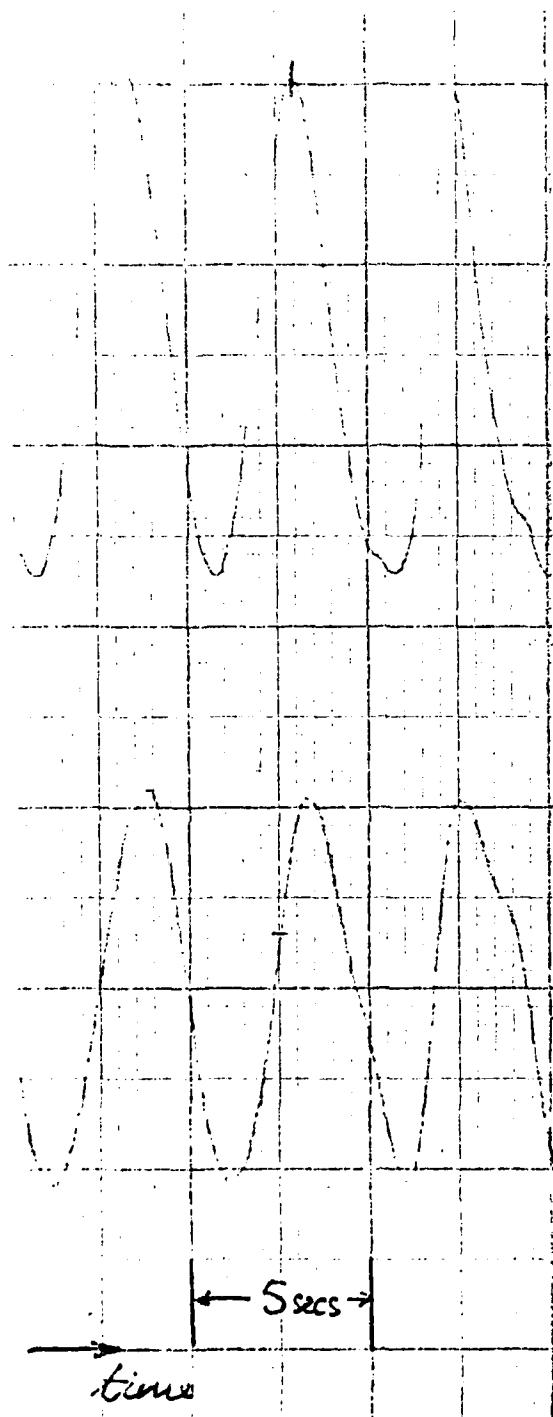


FIG. 2 MACH ZEHNDER INTERFEROMETER.

Mirror 1 is mounted on adherend 1 and mirror 2 and the beamsplitter on adherend 2. This mirror arrangement measures displacements normal to the bondline.



OUTPUT ①

OUTPUT ②

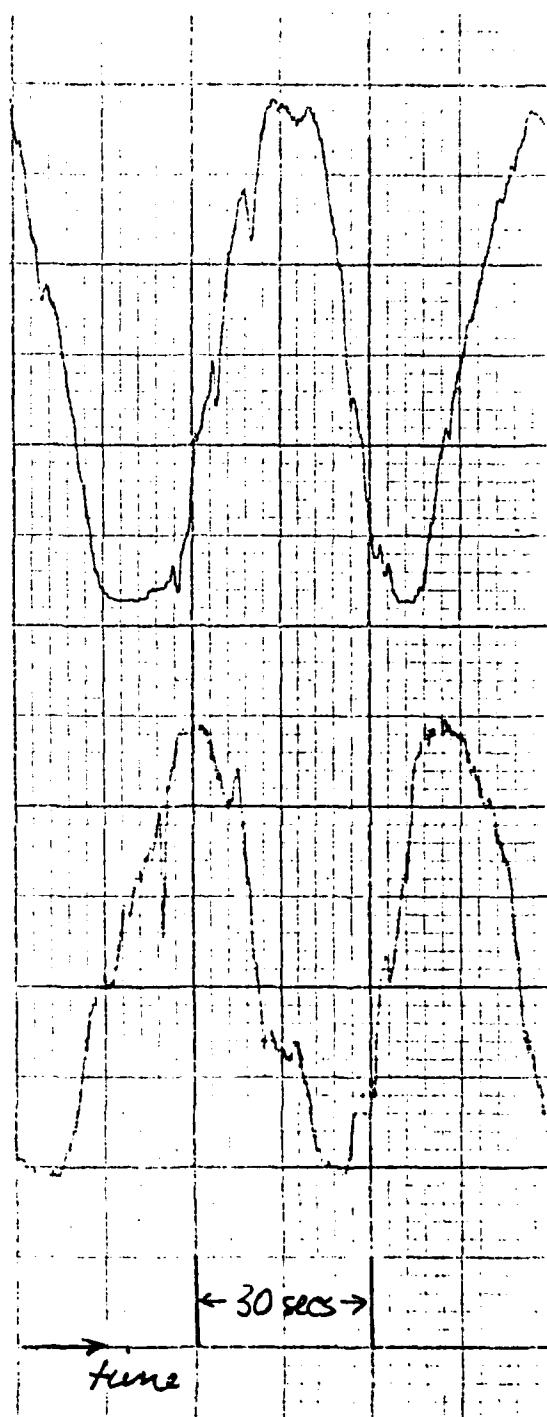


FIG 3 PHOTODIODE OUTPUT

- a) Liquid nitrogen cooling, output  
① leads output ②, mirrors

- b) Ambient heating, output ②<sup>(leads output ①, mirrors)</sup>

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